

## Message Text

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43

ORIGIN PA-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 EA-11 RSC-01 /031 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:HSFOSTER:DS

APPROVED BY PA/M:HSFOSTER

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

NEA, PA, EA

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P 051831Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 118119

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, PINT, PARM, IN

SUBJECT: AMERICAN EDITORIAL OPINION INDIA'S NUCLEAR BLAST

TO MOYNIHAN FROM LAISE

1. SUMMARY; TWENTY-NINE COMMENTING EDITORS ARE UNIVER-  
SALLY CRITICAL OF INDIA'S UNDERGROUND DETONATION OF A  
NUCLEAR DEVICE, ALTHOUGH THEY SEE DIFFERING REASONS FOR  
CONCERN AND IMPLICATION FOR US POLICY.

2. INDIA'S AVOWED PEACEFUL INTENTIONS WERE VIEWED WITH  
OPEN SCEPTICISM BY 22 OF THE 29 EDITORS, WASHPOST SAYING:  
FOR INDIA TO CALL ITS EXPLOSION PEACEFUL AND TO ABJURE  
ALL MILITARY INTENT IS RUBBISH BUT C.S.MONITOR DID  
SAY: INDIA IS THE FIRST TO HAVE NUCLEAR ENERGY BUT FOR-  
SWEAR NUCLEAR WEAPONS; WE HOPE INDIA MEANS THIS AND WILL  
ADHERE TO IT FOR ALL TIME; IF IT DOES THEN IT WILL STILL  
BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE NONPROLIFERATION IN WEAPONS.

3. MANY EDITORS (19) CHIDED INDIA FOR UPSETTING THE ESTAB-  
LISHED BALANCE OF NUCLEAR POWERS, AND FOR WEAKENING  
THE PRINCIPLE OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, THUS EN-  
COURAGING NEAR-NUCLEAR COUNTRIES TO GO AHEAD.

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4. AT THE SAME TIME, ONE THIRD OF THOSE COMMENTING (10

OUT OF 29) SAID INDIA WAS NOT ALONE AT FAULT; AND THESE PAPERS URGED THE SUPERPOWERS- ESPECIALLY THE US--TO WORK MORE DILIGENTLY TO FULFILL THE NPT PLEDGE TO ACTUALLY REDUCE NUCLEAR ARMS

5. A GREAT MAJORITY OF EDITORS (25 OUT OF 29) CRITICIZED INDIA,S SENSE OF PRIORITIES AND ITS MONUMENTAL MISAPPLICA-TION OF TALENT AND RESOURCES. TWELVE NOTED THAT INDIA MAY ENCOUNTER INCREASED DIFFICUL WORDS OF GENERAL INTRODUCTION, BUT OTHERWISE WILL PARTICIPATE IN INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSIONS. THE PROTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL MAKE A SINGLE GENERAL STATEMENT. ITALY, GREECE, TURKEY AND THE UK RESERVED THEIR DECISIONS AND OPTIONS TO GO EITHER WAY. ICELAND AND LUXEMBOURG GAVE NO INDICATION OF THEIR MINISTERS' PLANS, WITH LUXEMBOURG SAYING IT MAY NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO SEND A MINISTER TO OTTAWA.

B. TIMING OF PRIVATE MEETING-THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT THE PRIVATE MEETING OF MINISTERS WOULD BE HELD ON JUNE 18 AFTER THE FORMAL OPENING CEREMONIES, AND PRIOR TO THE FIRST PLENARY SESSION.

C. ATTENDANCE AT PRIVATE MEETING-IT WAS AGREED BY ALL EXCEPT THE U.S. THAT THIS MEETING WOULD BE ATTENDED BY THREE PERSONS FROM EACH DELEGATION: MINISTER PLUS PERMREP PLUS POLITICAL DIRECTOR OR OTHER HIGH OFFICIAL AS SUBSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL DIRECTOR IF NECESSARY. RUMSFELD RESERVED AND SAID HE WOULD SEEK INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POING.

D. AGENDA FOR PRIVATE MEETING-AS SET FORTH IN SYG'S PO, DISCUSSION IN THE PRIVATE MEETING WILL BEGIN WITH SOME REMARKS BY LUNS ASSOCIATED WITH HIS ANNUAL POLITICAL APPRAISAL (LUNS' APPRAISAL ITSELF WILL BE DELIVERED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PLENARY SESSION); AND THE MEETING WILL, THE COUNCIL HOPES, INCLUDE COMMENTS BY SECRETARY KISSINGER ABOUT IMPORTANT CURRENT EVENTS INCLUDING THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF PRESIDENT NIXON TO MOSCOW.

2. GUIDANCE REQUESTED IN REF A.  
RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, NPT, NUCLEAR TESTS, PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE118119  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** HSFOSTER:DS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740143-0146  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740672/aaaackej.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN PA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kellerpr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2003 by kellerpr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMERICAN EDITORIAL OPINION INDIA'S NUCLEAR BLAST TO MOYNIHAN FROM LAISE  
**TAGS:** PINT, PARM, US, IN, (LAKSHMANAN, TIROVAROR R)  
**To:** NEW DELHI  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005